(c) what is the total amount so far spent by Government on the development of Light Combat Aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Preliminary studies have been initiated at Aeronautical Development Agency ((ADA), Bangalore to conceptualise Medium Combat Aircraft (MCA) with a view to exploit indigenous technologies/expertise developed under the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Development Programme.

(c) As on 31st March 2005, audited expenditure incurred on LCA programme is:—

Full Scale Engineering Development (FSED) Phase-I, Rs. 2188 crore.

Full Scale Engineering Development (FSED) Phase-II, Rs. 988.21 crore

Full Scale Engineering Development (FSED) Navy Rs. 38.68 crore.

Exemption from Right to Information Act

917.SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has requested the Ministry of personnel to exempt all the three Services from the purview of the Right to Information Act, 2005;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry is demanding to keep its Services out of the purview of the the Act since the paramilitary forces have also been taken out of the purview of the Right to Information Act;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) why is it insisting to enjoy exemptions by including its Services under Schedule 2 of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The activities of the Armed Forces have a bearing on national security and sovereignty. The Ministry of Defence, therefore, has requested the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions to include the Armed Forces in the Second Schedule of the Right to Information Act, 2005.